Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the instant application.

We claim:

1. (Previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

2. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is selected from the group consisting of a DNA molecule and an RNA molecule.

3. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleic acid sequence having 90% or greater sequence identity ~~that hybridizes~~ to the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 and further comprises at least one forkhead transciption factor binding site.

4 -5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a promoter exhibiting the biological activity of the *sod-3* promoter, wherein the nucleic acid sequence is ~~selected from the group consisting of:~~

~~(a)~~ a nucleic acid sequence that has 90% or greater sequence identity to the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 and further comprises at least one forkhead transcription factor binding site.

~~(b) a fragment of the nucleic acid sequence of (a) or of the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1; and~~

~~(c) a derivative of the nucleic acid sequence of (a) or (b).~~

7 - 9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 and a nucleic acid sequence conferring the activity of a reporter gene.

11. (Previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 3 and a nucleic acid sequence conferring the activity of a reporter gene.

12. (Previously presented) A vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1.

13. (Previously presented) The vector of claim 12, wherein the nucleic acid molecule comprises DNA.

14. (Previously presented) The vector of claim 13, wherein the DNA is linked to regulatory elements which ensure the transcription and the synthesis of a translatable RNA of a reporter gene in eukaryotic cells.

15. (Previously presented) A vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 3.

16. (Previously presented) The vector of claim 15, wherein the nucleic acid molecule comprises DNA.

17. (Previously presented) The vector of claim 16, wherein the DNA is linked to regulatory elements which ensure the transcription and the synthesis of a translatable RNA of a reporter gene in eukaryotic cells.

18. (Previously presented) A transgenic host cell transformed with the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1.

19. (Previously presented) The transgenic host cell of claim 18, wherein the transgenic host cell is a nematode cell.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (currently amended) ~~The~~ A transgenic host ~~of claim 20~~ comprising the host cell of claim 18, wherein the transgenic host is a nematode.

22. (Previously presented) A transgenic host cell transformed with the nucleic acid molecule of claim 3.

23. (Previously presented) The transgenic host cell of claim 21, wherein the transgenic host cell is a nematode cell.

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Previously presented) The transgenic host of claim 24, wherein the transgenic host is a nematode.

26. (Previously presented) A method for identifying a modulating compound, the method comprising

(a) providing transgenic *C. elegans* comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1;

(b) contacting the transgenic *C. elegans* with at least one compound;

(c) measuring reporter gene activity in the absence and in the presence of the at least one compound;

(d) comparing the reporter gene activities of step (c); and

(e) selecting thereby at least one compound.

27. (Previously presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the *C. elegans* are L1 larvae.

28. (Previously presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the step of measuring reporter gene activity further comprising measuring the activity in the presence of at least one reference compounds.

29. (Previously presented) A method for identifying a modulating compound, the method comprising

(a) providing transgenic *C. elegans* comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 3;

(b) contacting the transgenic *C. elegans* with at least one compound;

(c) measuring reporter gene activity in the absence and in the presence of the at least one compound;

(d) comparing the reporter gene activities of step (c); and

(e) selecting thereby at least one modulating compound.

30. (Previously presented) The method of claim 29, wherein the *C. elegans* are L1 larvae.

31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 29, wherein the step of measuring reporter gene activity further comprising measuring the activity in the presence of at least one reference compounds.

32. (Previously presented) A process for identifying modulators of the *DAF-2*/IR pathway, the method comprising:

(a) providing transgenic *C. elegans* L1 larvae comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1;

(b) contacting the transgenic *C. elegans* L1 larvae with at least one compound under stressful conditions;

(c) measuring the amount of L1 larvae in the absence and in the presence of the at least one compound;

(d) comparing the amount of L1 larvae which entered into *dauer* larvae state with the amount of L1 larvae which did not enter into *dauer* larvae state; and

(e) selecting thereby at least one modulating compound.

33. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32, wherein the step of measuring the amount of L1 larvae further comprises measuring the amount of L1 larvae in the presence of at least one reference compound.

34. (Previously presented) A process for identifying modulators of the *DAF-2*/IR pathway, the method comprising:

(a) providing transgenic *C. elegans* L1 larvae comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 3;

(b) contacting the transgenic *C. elegans* L1 larvae with at least one compound under stressful conditions;

(c) measuring the amount of L1 larvae in the absence and in the presence of the at least one compound;

(d) comparing the amount of L1 larvae which entered into *dauer* larvae state with the amount of L1 larvae which did not enter into *dauer* larvae state; and

(e) selecting thereby at least one modulating compound.

35. (Previously presented) The method of claim 34, wherein the step of measuring the amount of L1 larvae further comprises measuring the amount of L1 larvae in the presence of at least one reference compound.

36. (New) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 3, wherein the forkhead transcription factor is a FOXO forkhead transcription factor.

37. (New) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 3, wherein the forkhead transcription factor is DAF-16.

38. (New) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 6, wherein the forkhead transcription factor is a FOXO forkhead transcription factor.

39. (New) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 6, wherein the forkhead transcription factor is DAF-16.